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LB 941

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, may I introduce some guests of Senator Barrett while you are thinking there a minute?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Certainly.

SPEAKER NICHOL: We have 12 students of the St. Anns High School in Lexington, Nebraska, and Roger Lucas is their teacher. They are in the north balcony. Would you please stand and be recognized by your Legislature. Thank you. Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. We have been hearing a little bit of talk about what is a fair raise. I wonder, has anybody even considered if it is fair to increase this tax again? Has it been three full years? They talk about the revenue that they are going to raise. Have we heard any discussion about the businesses that are going to fold because we keep this taxation, taxation on one business? No other industry is picked on as greatly as those poor devils that sell spirits or beer. Senators, I want to ask you a question and I hope you will think about the answer. Do you know when the last time was that you raised the taxes on insurance companies in the State of Nebraska? Do you? Do you know it has been 20 years? 20 years, but you are going to do this poor industry in again. Is that fair? Senator Hefner talks about what is fair in raising this tax. I don't think that is fair. Have you ever looked at the assets? Have you ever looked at the profits of insurance companies in the State of Nebraska? And I am an insurance agent. Made my living for 20 years selling insurance. But let's do it to the little bar owners, let's do it to the little cocktail lounges. Falstaff Brewery is down to 100 employees. They had 240. Does that tell you something? The prices keep going up thanks to taxes and thanks to inflation. So you look at the revenue it will raise and then you look at the money you are going to spend on unemployment insurance because you are spending it now on a 140 employees at Falstaff Brewery. If you want to talk about what is fair why don't you look at some of the other industries for a change? There is nothing